

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00434 141929Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01
/070 W

----- 127291 /63

R 141321Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1521
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AHMZASSY LONDON 1595
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 434

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL IRA DEMONSTRATES CAPABILITY

1. PROVISIONAL IRA STAGED COORDINATED DEMONSTRATION OF STRENGTH THROUGHOUT NORTHERN IRELAND DECEMBER 13. MOTIVE FOR ACTIONS OSTENSIBLY PROTEST AGAINST ENDING OF SPECIAL CATEGORY (POLITICAL) STATUS FOR CONVICTED TERRORISTS. THERE SOME 57 CARS HI-JACKED IN PROVINCE MANY SUBSEQUENTLY USED AS BOMBS OR BOMB HOAXES. THERE FIVE MAJOR EXPLOSIONS BELFAST AND ONE MAN, AN INVALID, SHOT AND KILLED BY BOMBERS. FOUR SHOPS BOMBED COUNTY LONDONDERRY VILLAGE OF BELLAGHY AND THERE EXPLOSIONS IN LURGAN, DUNGANNON AND COUNTY FERMANAGH. BOMBS AND BOMB HOAXES CLEVERLY PLACED ON STREETS AND BRIDGES TO CAUSE MAXIMUM DISRUPTION. BELFAST TRAFFIC IN ALL DIRECTIONS EXCEPT TO EAST PARALYZED BETWEEN 1700 AND 2100 LOCAL AND MI TO SOUTH CLOSED. MAIN BELFAST-DUBLIN RAILWAY LINE REMAINS CLOSED DECEMBER 14.

2. YESTERDAY'S EVENTS TO SOME EXTENT REFUTE RECENT SPECULATION THAT PROVISIONAL IRA "REELING" AND SO FRAGMENTED AS TO BE INCAPABLE OF COORDINATED ACTION. THERE ONLY TWO ARREST OR APPREHENSIONS OF SUSPECTED BOMBERS. DOUBTS PERSIST HOWEVER THAT PROVISIONALS CAPABLE OF SUSTAINED CAMPAIGNS OF PREVIOUS YEARS. OTHER MOTIVES FOR TIMING PROVISIONAL ONSLAUGHT MAY BE, (A) DEFIANCE OF BRITISH ARMY IN LIGHT REPORTS THAT SPECIAL
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AIR SERVICE, NOW ACTIVE IN RURAL COUNTY ARMAGH, BEING CONSIDERED

FOR ROLE IN COUNTERING URBAN TERRORISM (B), ATTEMPT DISCREDIT
PEACE MOVEMENT. PEACE LEADERS WILLIAMS, CORRIGAN A D MC KEOWN
IN GERMANY TO RECEIVE AWARD FROM INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE
RIGHTS OF MAN AND UNDER INCREASING CRITICISM FROM POLITICIANS
(REV. MARTIN SMYTH, NEIL OLIVAR) FOR PARTICIPATING IN "TRAVELING
PEACE CIRCUS."SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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